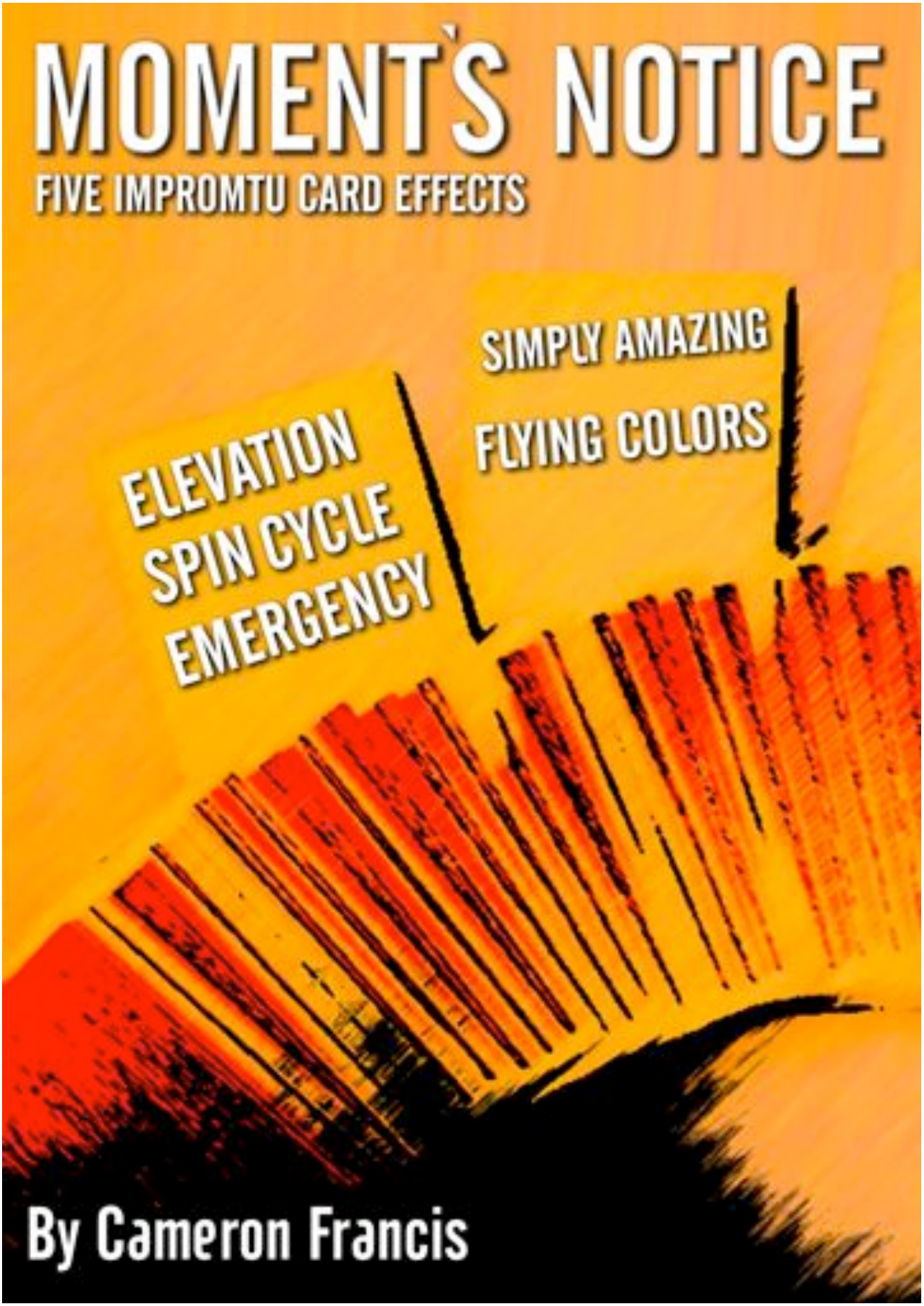
MOMENT'S NOTICE
FIVE IMPROMTU CARD EFFECTS
SIMPLY AMAZING
FLYING COLORS
ELEVATION
SPIN CYCLE
EMERGENCY
By Cameron Francis

# CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| INTRODUCTION | p. 3 |
| ELEVATION | p. 4 |
| SPIN CYCLE | p. 8 |
| EMERGENCY! | p. 13 |
| SIMPLY AMAZING | p. 16 |
| FLYING COLORS | p. 19 |

# INTRODUCTION

This project started off as a simple exercise to refresh my memory. Frustrated by my inability to recall certain impromptu effects when asked to do a trick in a casual situation, I sat down one day and wrote down all the completely off-the-cuff card effects that I had created. The contents of this booklet were just some of the effects that I jotted down that day.

Although I have included many impromptu card effects in other projects, I had never before attempted a project which consisted of nothing but spur of the moment material. After giving it a lot of thought, I decided that all of the tricks in the booklet would have to meet three conditions:

1. All of the effects had to be 100% impromptu. No set-ups whatsoever.

2. All of the effects had to be strong. No filler.

3. No other props could be used in conjunction with the cards. This includes markers or pens. Hence, no signed card tricks.

This narrowed the list down quite a bit! I quickly realized, however, that I had a good amount of material to choose from which fit my criteria. I selected some of the best previously unpublished effects and included them here.

I hope you enjoy “Moment's Notice” and use the material. Hopefully, like me, you'll never be caught off guard again.

Cameron Francis
May, 2009

# ELEVATION

*This is a four phased routine which contains a lot of magic. It is, however, very easy to follow and extremely easy to do. While not inspired by any one effect, the feel of the trick was inspired by Peter Duffie's various small packet elevator effects, which in turn were inspired by Ed Marlo's elevator plot.*

**Effect:**

**Phase 1**
The magician removes two special cards which he places face down on the table. Two cards are selected, say the Four of Hearts and the Ten of Spades. Both cards are lost in the pack. The special cards are turned face up and are seen to be the two black Jacks. The face up Jacks are tapped against the face down deck. The instantly trap a card between them: the Ten of Spades.

**Phase 2**
The magician then demonstrates the unique power of the Jacks by placing the Ten between them. It instantly rises to the top of the packer. The Ten is then placed under the Jacks. Once again, it rises to the top.

**Phase 3**
The Ten is then placed face up between the two Jacks. The packet is given a shake and the Ten turns face down. With two more shakes it turns face up and face down once again.

**Phase 4**
Finally, the face down Ten is placed on the table and the Jacks are cut back into the deck. The magician claims he will make the Ten disappear. He snaps his fingers over the Ten. Nothing seems to happen. When the card is turned over, it is now seen to be the Four of Hearts! The deck is spread and the Ten is now seen to be reversed in the center of the pack!

**Performance:**

**Phase 1**

1. Run through the deck and remove the two black Jacks. As you do this, say, “A lot of people think that when I do magic, that it's just me doing it. I wish I were that good. Honestly, sometimes I need help. That's why I always make sure I have my two special cards with me at all times.”

2. Place the Jacks face down on the table (Note: I do not reveal the identity of the cards

yet as it gives me an excuse to turn them face up on top of the deck later).

3. Have two cards selected. Take them back and control them to the top of the deck. Secure a pinky break under the top card of the deck as you gesture toward the two face down cards on the table.

4. Say, “I suppose you're wondering what these special cards are...” Pick up the face down Jacks and flip them face up on top of the deck.

5. Say, “They are the black Jacks. Now I know they don't look all that special. But trust me, these guys are really good!” With your right hand, lift off all three cards above the break. With your left thumb, clamp down on the top Jack as your right hand moves to the right with the bottom Jack and the face down selection under it being held as one. Place the two cards in your right hand on top of the Jack on the deck, side-jogged a bit to the right. This is a standard sandwich load.

6. Pick up the Jacks with the face down card between them and wave them over the pack, slowly spreading them to reveal the face down card between them **(Fig. 1)**.

**Fig. 1**

7. Remove the card from the spread and turn it face up to reveal the first selection.

8. Place it on the table or on a spectator's hand. Secure a break under the top face down card of the pack (this is the second selection). Flip the Jacks face down on top of the deck and then immediately lift off all three cards above the break with your right hand. Table the face down deck.

**Phase 2**

9. Place the packet of three cards, which your spectators believe to be only two cards, into your left hand. With your right hand, pick up the selection and insert it face down under the top card. Square up the packet.

10. Hold the packet from above in right hand Biddle Grip. Use the tips of your left fingers to back spread the bottom two cards of the packet to the left **(Fig. 2)**.

**Fig. 2**

11. Square up but as you do, secure a pinky break above these bottom two cards. Push an imaginary button in the middle of the top card. Perform a double turnover to show the selection has risen to the top of the packet.

12. Say, “Now that was good. But they can do it again. This time from the *bottom* of the packet.” Turn the double face down. Remove the top face down card and very slowly place it under the packet. Have the spectator push the “button” on the top card. Turn over the top card to reveal that the selection has once again risen to the top.

**Phase 3**

13. Take the face up selection with your right hand and insert it under the top card of the face down packet. Square up and the re-spread the packet, holding the bottom two cards as one to show the face up selection between the two face down cards. Square up the packet again.

14. Give the packet a shake. Holding the packet from above with your right hand, use your left finger tips to back spread the bottom two cards to the left to show that the selection has turned face down. Square up the packet.

15. Give the packet another shake. You will now perform an Ascanio-type Spread but with only three cards. Holding the packet from above with the right hand, your left thumb pulls the top card to the left, your left middle finger contacts the bottom card and pulls it to the left as well as your right hand moves slightly to the right, holding the middle two cards as one **(Fig. 3)**. Squiggle the cards and then square them up again.

16. Perform step 14 again. At the end of the sequence, as you square up the packet, leave the middle face down card (the card second from the bottom of the packet) out-jogged. Remove it from the packet and place it on the table or a spectator's palm. This actually the second selection.

**Fig. 3**

**Phase 4**

17. The face up first selection is still between the Jacks. Say, “The Jacks have very kindly helped me out throughout this entire effect. But I'm the one getting paid, not them. So I'll attempt this last feat solo.” Place the face down packet on top of the deck. Pick up the top half and place it into your left hand. Pick up the bottom half and place it on top of all. The reversed selection is now centralized in the pack.

18. Tell the spectators that you will make the card on the table disappear. Snap your fingers over the face down card. Obviously, nothing happens. Say, “Well, I know I said I'd make it disappear. But what I actually did was make it switch places...” Turn the card over to reveal the second selection. “With the other selection.”

19. Spread the pack to reveal the first selection face up in the middle.

# SPIN CYCLE

*Based on Dai Vernon's Twisting the Aces and the Hofzinser Ace Problem. The routine also bears a strong similarity to Peter Duffie's trick, The Problem With Hofzinser from his excellent ebook, "Card Secrets Unlocked". The twisting of the cards in the box at the end of the routine is based on a Darwin Ortiz idea.*

**Effect:**

The four Aces are removed from the pack and placed aside. A card is selected, say the Two of Hearts, and lost in the pack. The magician explains that the Aces will be able to identify the card through a strange procedure. One by one, the face down Ace turn face up. The last Ace to turn face up is the Ace of Hearts. This, the magician explains, means that the selected card was a Heart. The Ace of Hearts is placed aside. The spectator cuts the remaining face down Aces into the pack. The deck is cased and the spectator gives the box a spin. The cards are removed from the box and the deck is spread. The Aces are seen face up in the middle with one face down card between them: the Two of Hearts.

**Performance:**

1. Run through the pack and remove the Aces. As you do this, note the card at the back of the deck. It could be any card but in this case, let's say it's the Two of Hearts.

2. As you show the Aces, position the Ace of same suit as the card at the top of the deck so that it's second from the top of the Ace packet. In this example, it would be the Ace of Hearts. So, if you are looking at the face up spread of Aces, the Ace of Hearts needs to be the third card from the face.

3. Leave the Aces on the table. Force the top card of the deck onto a spectator. Riffle Force works great here.

4. As the spectator is looking at the card and showing it around, get a Tilt break under the top card of the pack.

5. Take the selection back and insert it into the Tilt break so that it is now second from the top of the deck. Keep a pinky break under the selection.

6. Pick up the Aces and place them face up on top of the deck for a moment, maintaining your break. Say, "Now the Aces are going to tell us the card you selected. But they're going to do it in a rather strange way."

7. As you say this, lift up all six cards above the break, the four Aces and the two face down cards under them. Place the deck face down on the table.

8. Holding the packet from above in Biddle Grip, use your left thumb to peel the first, second, third Aces into the left hand. Place the last Ace, and the two cards under it, on top of all. Turn the packet face down.

9. Say, “The Aces will turn face up, one at a time. The last Ace to reveal itself will be of the same suit as the card you selected.” As you say this, slide out the bottom face down card with your right hand and tap it against the packet for emphasis. Replace the card on top of the packet.

10. Perform a Through The Fist Flourish to reverse the packet.

11. You will now perform  Sam Schwartz's “Backflip” twisting sequence to cause the Aces to turn face up one by one. Perform an Elmsley Count, out-jogging the face up Ace and the last card counted **(Fig. 1)**. Pull the face down card which is third from the top toward you with your right index finger on top and your thumb underneath **(Fig. 2)**. As you do this, your left index finger pushes the Ace and the face down card above it flush with the packet **(Fig. 3)**.

**Fig. 1**

**Fig. 2**

**Fig. 3**

12. Repeat step 11 two more times.

13. Elmsley Count a fourth time. This time, place the third card counted, the face up Ace, flush onto the packet. Buckle the bottom card of the packet and slip the last face down card into the break so it's second from the bottom **(Fig. 4)**. Explain that since the last Ace to turn face up was the Ace of Hearts, the selected card must have been a Heart suited card.

**Fig. 4**

14. Remove the face up Ace of Hearts from the top of the packet and place it on the table. It looks as if you are left holding a face down packet of cards. In fact the situation is this from the top of the packet down: face down indifferent card, face up Ace, face up Ace, face down selection, face up Ace.

15. Place the apparently face down packet of Aces onto the deck. Have the spectator cut the pack and complete the cut. Tell her to place the deck inside the card case. Once he has done this, ask her to spin it. This done, have her open the case, remove the cards and spread through the face down deck. She will find three face up Aces in the middle with one face down card between them. Ask her to remove the face down card from between the Aces and turn it over to reveal the selection.

## DAVE FORREST'S ALTERNATE HANDLING

My good friend and total magic genius, Dave Forrest, came up with a brilliant alternative handling for this effect which gives you a Roy Walton “Collectors” ending. I'll let him describe it in his own words:

*In this version, you will have two cards selected instead of just one. When you spot the top card while removing the Aces simply cull another card of the same suit to the rear of the deck. Then, force those two cards and control them to the top. Now perform the trick exactly as described.*

*At the end of the twisting sequence, announce, “You both picked Hearts” (or whatever suit was selected). Now, get a break under the top two cards of the small packet and perform Roy Walton's 'Trigger' in the act of an all round square up. Then turn the packet face up and place it on top of the deck.*

*The spectator cuts the deck. Spread the pack to reveal three face up Aces in the center with two face down cards between them. Remove the cards and turn them over to reveal the two selections.*

Cameron, here. Because two cards are selected that just “happen” to be the same suit, I think that the presentation of the effect needs to be altered slightly. Here's a suggestion: after the two cards are selected and returned to the deck, you should attempt to “read the spectator's minds” and then say something to the effect of, “I think you both picked cards of the same suit, but I'm not sure which one. Let's use the Aces to help us find out.”

## ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRIGGER MOVE

For those of you who don't know 'Trigger', here is another way to achieve Dave's ending.

Let's say the two selected cards were Heart-suited cards. At the end of the twisting sequence, you have one of the selections second from the bottom and one second from the top. The face up Ace of Hearts is on top of the packet.

Remove the Ace of Hearts and hand it to the spectator or place it on the table. As you do this, your left hand drops to your side momentarily. When you bring you left hand back up, keep it palm down. A back will be showing so everything looks fair. You have secretly reversed the packet. Re-grip the packet so that you are holding it in dealer's grip in your left hand.

Position Check: Face down Ace, face up selection, face down Ace, face down Ace, face up selection.

It will now look as if you are displaying the three face down Aces and then turn the packet face up. Here's what actually happens:

Get a break under the top two cards. Holding the two cards from above with the right hand, move them to the right a bit.  You are now holding three cards in your left hand. With your left thumb, push the top card of this packet to the right so it goes under the two cards you are holding in your right hand. Take this card, keeping it side-jogged to the left, under the two cards already in your right hand.

Your left hand is now holding two cards as one. Place these two cards on top of the cards in your right hand and square up the packet. Turn the packet face up. The selections are now interlaced between the three Aces.

Although it took a lot of words to describe, this is actually a very simple procedure.

# EMERGENCY!

*This is a completely in-the-hands variation of Dai Vernon's Triumph with a fun presentation.*

**Effect:**

A card is selected and lost in the deck. To make his job of finding the card even more difficult, the magician turns half the deck face up and shuffles it into the face down half. Failing twice to find the card, the magician claims that all decks now come equipped with an Emergency button. The button is pressed, the deck is straightened and a previously indifferent card is now discovered to have transformed into the selection.

**Performance:**

1. Have a card selected.

2. As the spectator is looking at the card and showing it around, half pass the bottom card of the pack so that it is now reversed. Secure a break under the top card of the deck.

3. Take the selection back and place it on top of the deck, maintaining the break (you now have a break under two cards).

4. Hold the deck from above with your right hand, holding the break with your thumb. The left hand now undercuts half the deck and rolls it over, half-passing it, as it is placed onto the top portion **(Fig. 1)**. This may seem bold but it's very easy to do and is virtually in-detectable. It simply looks as if you are cutting the deck. Position the deck in left hand dealer's grip, maintaining the break in the middle of the pack with your left pinky.

**Fig. 1**

**Position check from the top of the deck down:** Face down indifferent card, half the deck face up, face down selection, face down indifferent card, pinky break, half of the deck face down.

5. With your left hand, undercut the half of the deck under the break. Use the left long edge of the half in your right hand to flip the left hand portion face up.

6. Weave the two packets together. Be sure to weave the left hand face up packet *into* the supposed face down right hand packet **(Fig. 2)**. In other words, the cards on the top and bottom of the right hand packet should be the top and bottom cards of the entire deck. You must also be sure that you start to weave the cards above the two reversed cards at the bottom of the right hand packet. Once the cards are pushed into each other about half way, carefully grip the pack with your right hand and revolve your wrist to show that the cards are indeed being shuffled face up into face down (**Fig. 3)**.

**Fig. 2**

**Fig. 3**

7. Push the cards in the rest of the way and square up the deck. A face down card is on top of the deck. Lift off about half the pack with your right hand to show a face up card in the center. Replace the top portion.

8. Say that in spite of the mixed nature of the deck, you will make the selected card appear on top. Snap your fingers over the pack and turn the top card face up. It will be an indifferent card. Ask if it is the selection. When the spectator replies in the negative, look disappointed.

9. Turn the pack over to show a face up card on the other side. Ask if that's the selection. She will reply that it is not.

10. Perform a double turnover, and lift off the top face down card (This is the selection). Insert it into the middle of the deck but leave it out-jogged for about half its length. As you do this, say, “That's alright. Because all commercially produced decks now come specially equipped with an Emergency button which will instantly correct everything. Just press right there...” Indicate the center of the back design. As the spectator pushes her finger on the card make a buzzing noise.

11. Spread the pack showing that all of the cards are now face down. Have the spectator remove the out-jogged card and turn it over, revealing it to be the selection.

# SIMPLY AMAZING

*Based on an old effect by Charles Jordan called Amazing Aces. The plot is the same, all I have done is simplify the handling.*

**Effect:**

The four Aces are removed from the pack and placed to the magician's left. The spectator cuts the deck into four face down piles and then points to any one of them. The top four cards are removed from the freely chosen pile, shown to be indifferent and are placed face down on the spectator's hand.

The Aces are fairly inserted face down into each pile. The piles are stacked one on top of the other and the deck is then turned face up. The deck in placed on top of the four face down indifferent cards which the spectator has been holding onto. The magician snaps his fingers and spreads through the deck. The Aces are nowhere to be found. The four face down cards at the back of the deck are turned over. They are now the four Aces!

**Performance:**

1. Remove the four Aces and place them face up on top of the face down deck.

2. Spread the Aces to display them, being sure to spread at least three cards past them. Square up the pack, getting a break under the top seven cards of the pack; the four face up Aces and the three face down cards under it.

3. Lift the top seven cards above the break. Use your left thumb to peel the first Ace off the packet. Use the left long edge of the packet to flip the Ace face down on top of the deck. Repeat this procedure with the next two Aces. Drop the last face up Ace and the three cards under it on top of the pack. Flip the Ace face down (This is a standard Braue Addition sequence).

4. Thumb the top four cards off the pack into your right hand, reversing their order. You are now holding a packet of cards which contains of three indifferent cards and one Ace at the bottom. Square up the packet and flash the face of it before placing it face down to your left.

5. Ask the spectator to cut the deck into four equal piles. The last pile she places down on the table will have the three Aces on top so be sure to keep track of it.

6. Once the piles have been placed on the table, ask her to select any one. Whichever one she selects, remove the top four cards from the top of the packet, display the

faces, turn them face down and place the packet on her hand. Have her place her other hand on top of the cards (Note: If she selects the pile which contains the Aces, turn the pile face up and give her the four cards off the bottom).

7. Pick up the supposed Aces. Remove the top card and slip it into any pile except the Ace pile. I like to turn my left hand palm down to steady the pile as my right hand slips the card into the packet. This way you can flash the index of the Ace at the bottom of the packet between your left first finger and second finger. This is a subtle convincer that all the cards you are holding are indeed Aces.

8. Slip the next two cards into two other piles. The last card, the actual Ace, get slipped into the Ace pile. Be sure to slip it somewhere within the top three cards (the Aces).

9. Stack the piles on top of one another, the Ace pile going on top of all.

10. Spread the deck, commenting on how the Aces are lost in different parts of the pack. As you go to square up the deck, get a break under the top four cards (the four Aces).

11. Perform a Braue Reversal so that the Aces are reversed at the bottom of the face up deck.

12. Double undercut the top card to the bottom of the pack.

13. Have the spectator lift her hand. Place the face up deck on top of the four face down cards in her hand.

14. Lift up the entire pack and place it in left hand dealers grip. Make sure it's a fairly deep grip.

15. Snap your fingers over the pack. Start spreading the face up cards. After you spread about twelve or so, place them on the table. Keep doing this, asking the spectator to tell you when she sees any of the Aces.

16. Eventually you will come to a reversed card **(Fig. 1)**. This is why you want to keep the deck in a deep grip, to help hide the edge of the reversed packet. You are only supposed to be holding four cards at the end of the deck but you are in fact holding nine!

**Fig. 1**

17. Take the face down packet from above with your right hand and give it a quick Ascanio Spread to show four face down cards. Square up the packet and drop it on top of the face up cards on the table.

18. Square up the pack. Snap the face down cards face up, one by one, revealing the Aces.

    Note: At the end of the effect, there is one face up card at the face of the pack and four reversed indifferent cards under it. To clean up, turn the pack face down. Double undercut the bottom card to the top. Get a break above the bottom four cards and half pass them. The deck is now clean.

## ALDO COLOMBINI'S ALTERNATE HANDLING

Aldo came up with a fantastic alternate handling for the end of the effect. With his version, no clean up is necessary after the trick is over.

Here's Aldo's ending in his own words:

*Perform the Braue Reversal (Step 11) but do NOT cut a card from top to bottom, so the four aces are reversed at the bottom.*

*Drop the deck onto the spectator's four-card packet. Go through the showing of the cards (Step 15) but place them face DOWN on the table, until you reach the first face-down card.*

*Drop these eight cards (spectators think four) on top of the deck and flip over the top four cards showing the Aces. You also end up with a 'clean' deck.*

# FLYING COLORS

*This effect was originally more of a standard transposition. I have recently changed the handling so that now it resembles the "Follow The Leader" plot.*

**Effect:**

The magician removes four red cards and four black cards from the deck. The four red cards are placed to his left, the four black cards are placed to his right. He slowly switches the top card of each packet. When the packets are turned over, the four red cards are now on his right and the four black cards are now on his left!

The experiment is then repeated, this time in the spectator's own hands!

**Performance:**

**Phase 1**

1. Run through the deck and remove four medium valued red cards and four medium valued black cards.

2. Holding the cards face up, place the red cards on top of the black cards. Spread the packet displaying the eight cards. As you go to square it up, secure a pinky break above the bottom two black cards.

3. Square up the packet. Lift up the six cards above the break. Use them to lever the remaining two cards face down in your left hand. Place the face up packet on top of the two face down black cards, maintaining the break. Spread over the top three red cards, holding the last three cards as one to display four red cards. Flip the six card packet face down and deal the top four cards onto the table to your right. These cards will be two black cards followed by two red cards.

4. Flip the remaining four cards face up to show a black card at the face. Turn the packet face down and deal the cards onto the table to your left.

5. Say, "We're going to play a little game of follow the leader with these cards..." Pick up the top cards of each packet. Turn them face up and slowly cross your arms. Place the black card face down on top of the supposed red packet on your right. Place the red card face down on the supposed black packet on your left.

6. Snap your fingers over the packets. Pick up the packet on your right and flip it face up. Elmsley Count to show four black cards. Place the packet face down on the table to

your right.

7. Pick up the packet on your left and flip it face up. Elmsley Count to show four red cards. Turn the packet face down. Push the packet on your right to you left and then place the packet in your hand to your right (This is done so that to confuse the spectators a bit so they do not remember the orientation of the packets on the table. During the next phase you will switch the packets once more to ensure that they really have no clue).

**Phase 2**

8. Say, “Now, I don't usually do this, but I'm going to teach you how I did this trick. Just follow my directions to the letter and you'll be able to do it, too.” Pick up the packets and cross your arms placing the face down packet on your right to the spectator on your left and the face down packet on your left to the spectator on your right. While crossing your arms, be sure to keep the packets as far away from each other as possible.

9. Instruct the spectators to lift up the top card of the packet in front of them and turn it face up. Both of these cards are actually the odd cards of their packets but thanks to time misdirections and the switching of the packets, the spectators do not know this. Ask the spectators to place each of their cards face down on top of the other person's packet.

10. Lean in and say, in a conspiratorial tone, “Now here's where the secret move comes in... Snap your fingers over the packets...” Once the spectators have done this, brighten up and say, “That's it! The work is done! All of the other cards have followed the leader card. Turn the packets over!” They do and find that all the cards once again match.

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